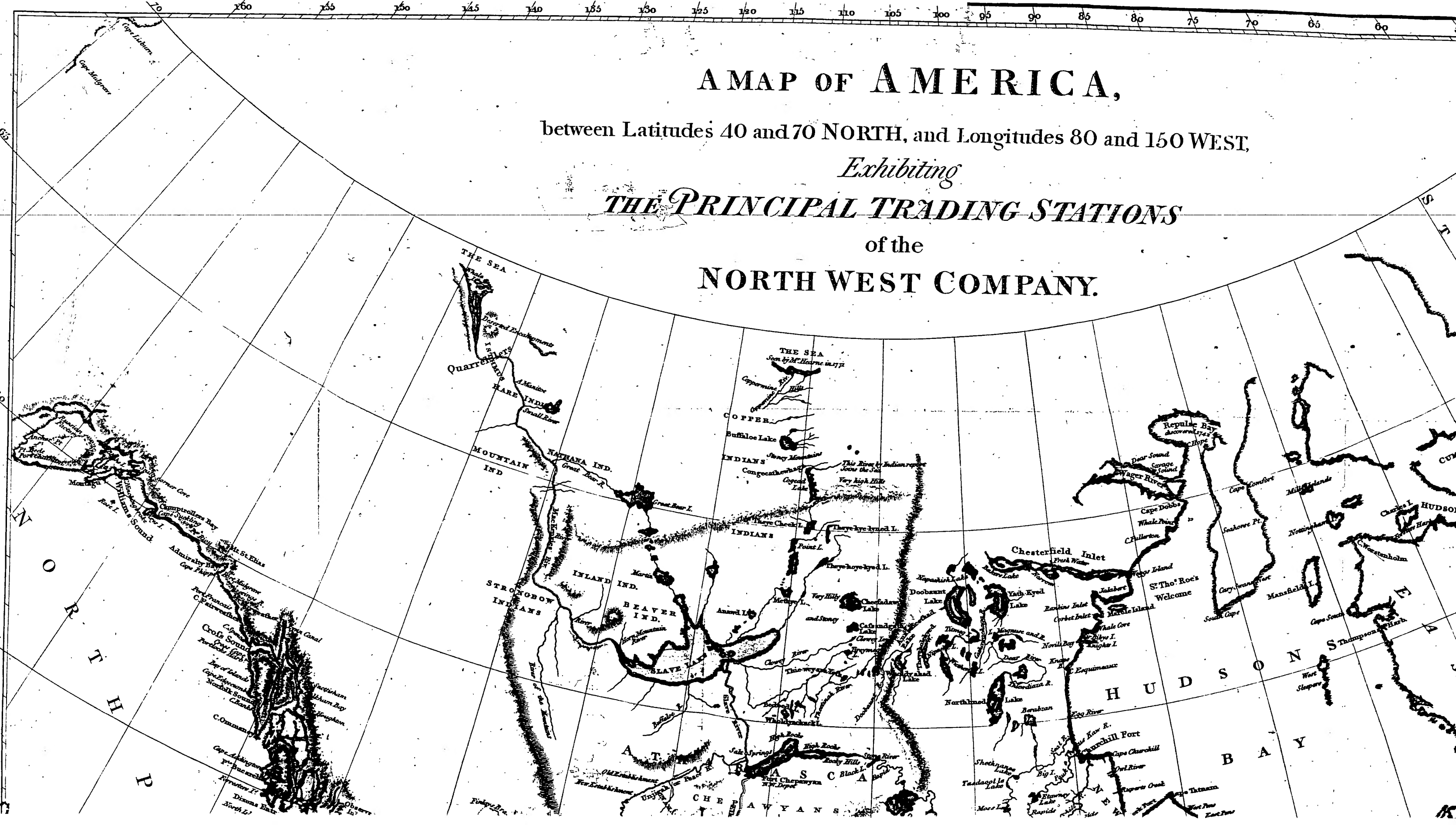


A MAP OF AMERICA,

between Latitudes 40 and 70 NORTH, and Longitudes 80 and 150 WEST,

Exhibiting
THE PRINCIPAL TRADING STATIONS

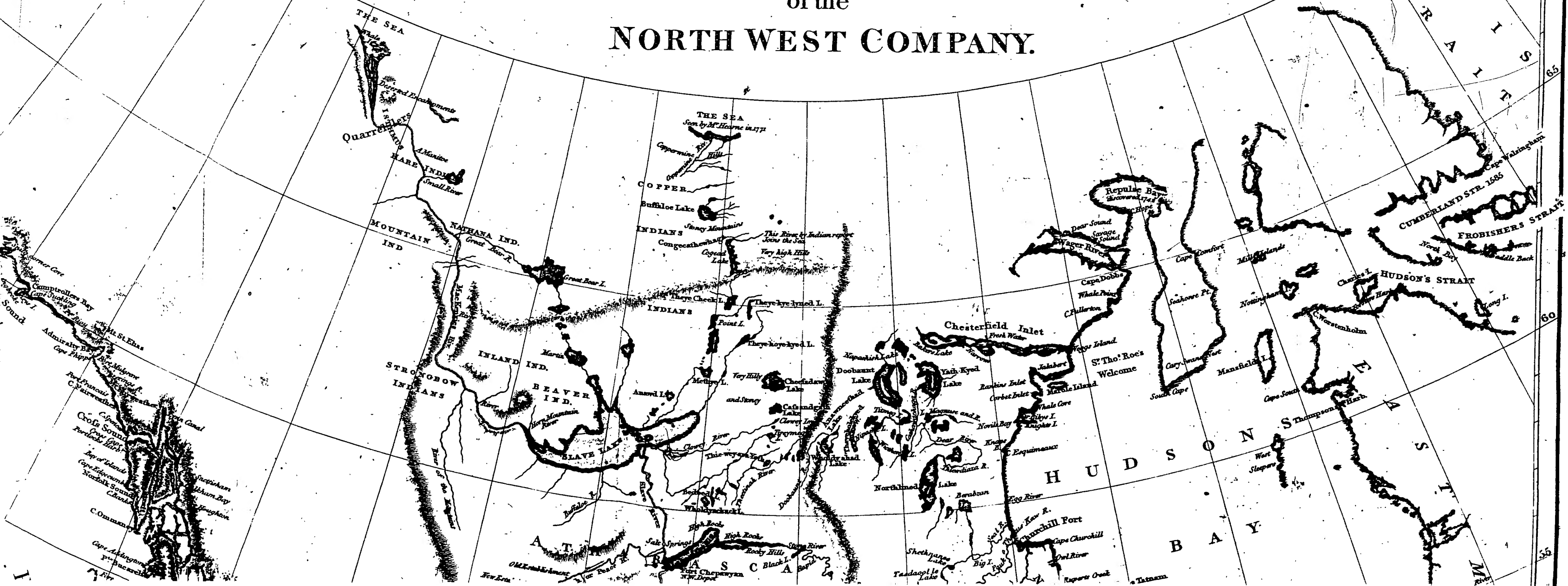
of the
NORTH WEST COMPANY.

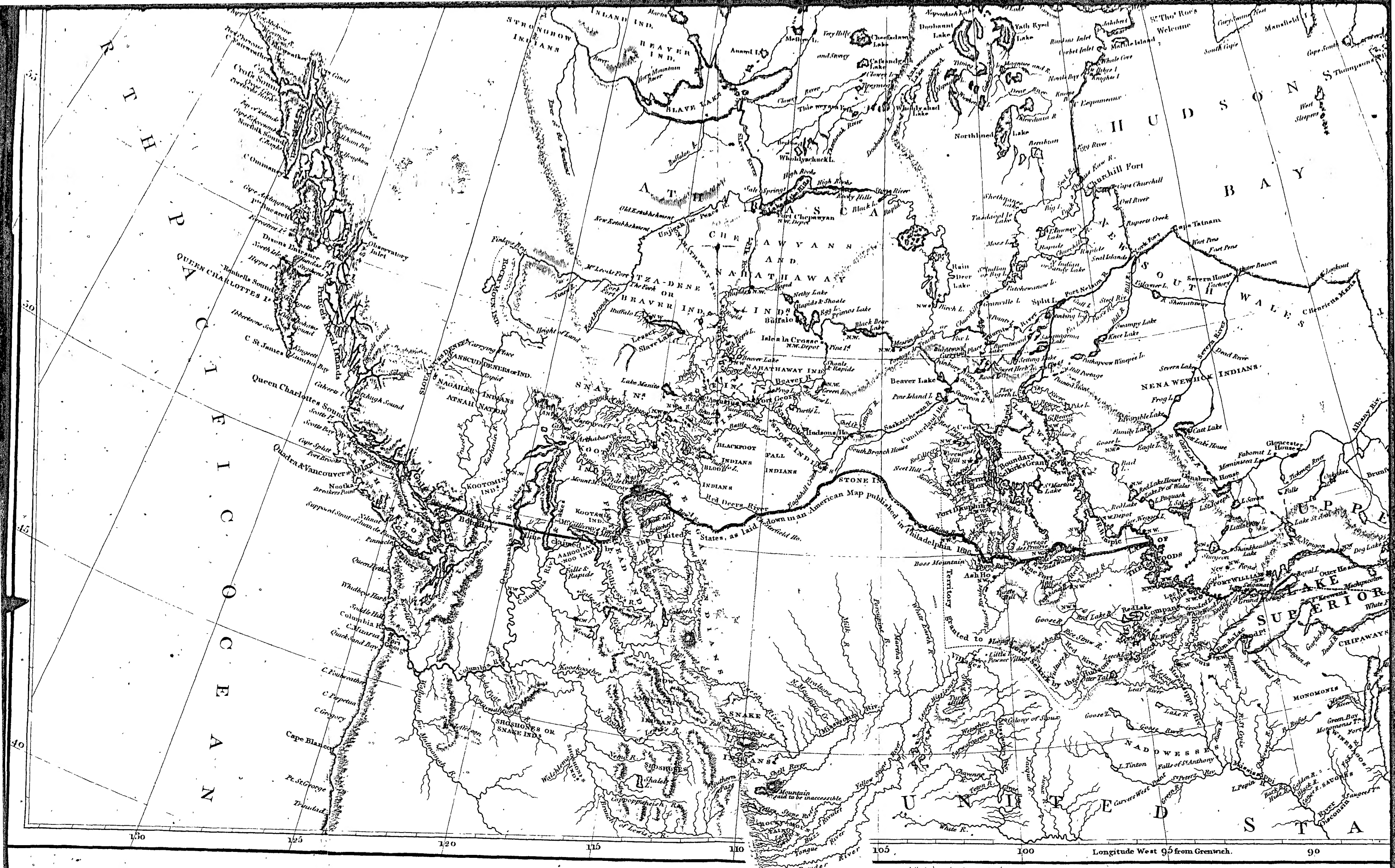


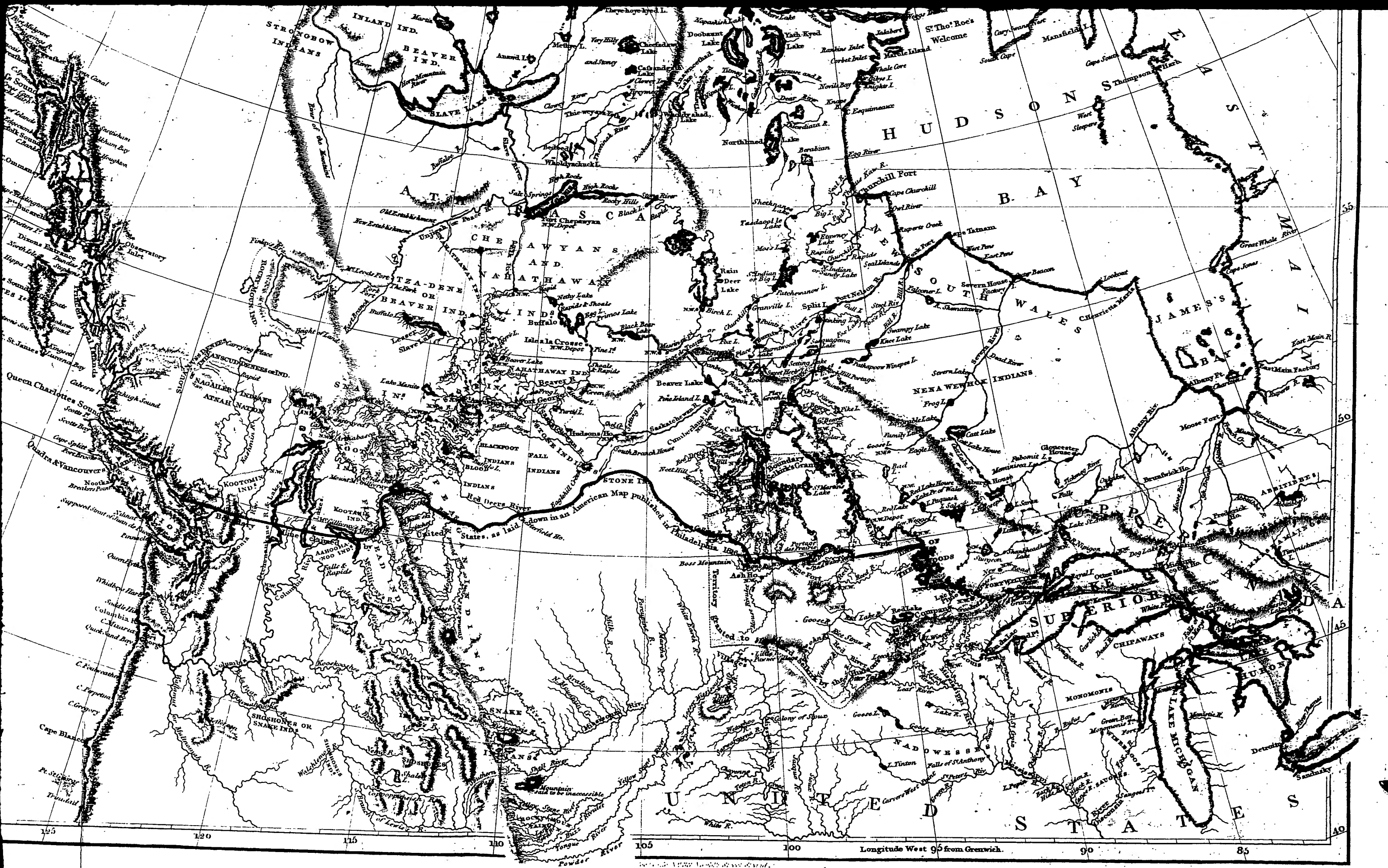
A MAP OF AMERICA,

between Latitudes 40 and 70 NORTH, and Longitudes 80 and 150 WEST,

Exhibiting
THE PRINCIPAL TRADING STATIONS
of the
NORTH WEST COMPANY.







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NOTICE

RESPECTING

THE BOUNDARY

BETWEEN

HIS MAJESTY'S POSSESSIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

AND

THE UNITED STATES;

WITH

A Map of America,

BETWEEN LATITUDES 40° AND 70° NORTH, AND LONGITUDES
80° AND 150° WEST;

EXHIBITING

THE PRINCIPAL TRADING STATIONS

OF THE

NORTH-WEST COMPANY;

AND

INTENDED TO ACCOMPANY THE NARRATIVE OF OCCURRENCES IN THE
INDIAN COUNTRIES OF NORTH AMERICA,

CONNECTED WITH

THE EARL OF SELKIRK, THE HUDSON'S BAY AND THE NORTH-WEST
COMPANIES.


MONTREAL.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY B. M'MILLAN, BOW-STREET, COVENT-GARDEN.

1817.

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REPORT OF
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LABORATORY

NOTICE,

RESPECTING THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN HIS MAJESTY'S POSSESSIONS
IN NORTH AMERICA, AND THE UNITED STATES.

REFERRING to the Extracts herewith given of the Treaties of 1783, 1794, and 1814, it is not intended to comment upon the manifest geographical ignorance of the British Negotiators in the former of these Treaties, nor to enlarge upon the important, and now irrecoverable, territorial advantages which they yielded to the Americans, without obtaining any acknowledgment or equivalent in return: this Notice is meant merely to describe the boundary line now claimed by the United States, and to explain the grounds upon which their claims appear to be founded.

The line extending to the "*most north-western point of the Lake of the Woods,*" being expressly ceded in the Treaty of 1783, and recognized in all the subsequent Treaties, it would now be an useless, though an easy task, to demonstrate its absurdity, and to show, that though the Negotiators had heard of "*the Long Lake,*" and the "*Lake of the Woods,*" (through means of the Canadian voyageurs, who alone had explored that part of the country, and who carried on the Fur Trade by that route); yet that they were totally ignorant of the relative position of these Lakes, and that *their meaning was*, to follow the head waters of the River St. Lawrence to its source, which they conceived to be the Lake of the Woods, and from thence to proceed *due west* to intersect the Mississippi, which was supposed to rise far to the northward of the River St. Lawrence, and whose source is actually situated

to the northward of the River St. Louis, which is the next distant source of the waters of Lake Superior, and consequently of the River St. Lawrence.

The *Lake of the Woods* was, however, named as a fixed point, and the American Government were of course glad to avail themselves of the unintended accession of territory it gave them: the line between Lake Superior and the Lake of the Woods, is now to be determined by Commissioners, and they will find some difficulty in agreeing upon it, because there is actually *no water communication* between these Lakes, and there is no such Lake in existence as the "*Long Lake*," through which the line is described to run, though by that name it is supposed was meant a succession of small Lakes, from which the River of *Lac la Pluie* issues, and which are situated a short distance beyond the height of land which separates that River and the other tributary streams, flowing through the Lake of the Woods towards Lake Winnipic, from those which fall into Lake Superior.

The Treaty of 1794, states it to be "uncertain, whether the River Mississippi extends so far to the northward, as to be intersected by a line to be drawn *due west* from the Lake of the Woods," and provides for the appointment of Commissioners to ascertain the point; and in the event of its being ascertained, that the line running *due west* would not intersect the Mississippi, it is stipulated, that "the two parties will thereupon proceed by amicable negotiation, to regulate the boundary line in that quarter according to justice and mutual convenience, and in conformity to the intent of the said Treaty" (of 1783).

No Commissioners have ever met under the Treaty of 1794, and consequently the line *beyond* the Lake of the Woods has never been officially agreed upon. During the negotiations which were carried on in London in 1806, be-

tween Lord Holland and the late Lord Auckland on one side, and Mr. Monroe (now President of the United States) and Mr. Pinckney on the other, this part of the boundary line was the subject of frequent discussion; and the Writer of this Notice having at the time in his possession, an original Survey of the Country, between the Lake of the Woods and the source of the Mississippi, made by Mr. Thompson, Geographer to the North-West Company, was called upon to produce the same, and had opportunities of hearing some of the discussions which took place. The most north-western point of the Lake of the Woods is situated in the latitude of $49^{\circ} 20'$ north, and longitude $94^{\circ} 30'$ west, while *Turtle Lake*, which is the source of the Mississippi, is situated in latitude $47^{\circ} 36'$ north, and longitude $95^{\circ} 10'$ west; therefore a line from the Lake of the Woods to the source of the Mississippi, would run about SSW, while a line running *due west*, would of course never intersect the Mississippi. The British Negotiators contended, that the nearest line from the Lake of the Woods to the Mississippi, was the true intent of the Treaty of 1783; but the Americans insisted that the line was to run *due west*, and since it never could intersect the Mississippi, that it must run *due west* across the whole Continent. The point was not decided in these negotiations, being one of those reserved for further discussion, when the Treaty was concluded, which the American Government afterwards refused to ratify.

The justice of the case appears to have been clearly against the American claims; for as the course of the River Mississippi then formed the *western* boundary of their territory, they could not reasonably maintain any claim to territory situated to the *westward* of its source; but their purchase of Louisiana, which took place in the same year, gave them an opportunity of extending their claims indefinitely to

the westward, and of insisting upon the line *due west* from the Lake of the Woods, as their *northern* boundary. An American publication of that time, supposed to be written by one of their most eminent statesmen*, contains the following observations on the subject of "*the British Treaty*," as it was called in that country, which the President refused to ratify, in consequence, as that author supposes, of the new territorial claim, founded upon the purchase of Louisiana. The passage referred to is as follows, viz.

"The Convention, however, made complete provision for the subject matter of the Fourth and Fifth Articles of the old Treaty. It fixed our eastern boundary, settled the course of a line from the Mississippi to the Lake of the Woods, and confirmed our title to Moose Island. It was duly sent over to America; was received, and was mentioned by the President to the Congress, as a satisfactory arrangement. So far all went on smoothly. But previous to a Ratification, the Louisiana Treaty came forward, and seems at once to have fascinated our Administration. Instead of considering the conditions of this costly bargain; they considered only how they should secure the merit of making it, to themselves. And instead of adopting prudent measures to possess the valuable tract, east of the Mississippi, which was clearly within the Grant, they set their fancies to work in stretching the boundary north and west, so as to reach the Polar Circle and Pacific Ocean. Careless of the centuries which must roll away before we can populate our old domain, the President, in his anxiety not to lose one acre of those prodigious deserts which extend from Lake Superior to Nootka Sound, refused to ratify the Convention, lest it should be supposed that something was

* Gouverneur Morris, formerly American Ambassador at Paris, and in London.

“ thereby surrendered of what we had purchased under the
 “ name of Louisiana. This may seem incredible, and we
 “ will not vouch for the truth. The true cause of his re-
 “ fusals may be one of those mysteries, which it is conve-
 “ nient to hide from the people. But it is a fact, that the
 “ Convention was not ratified, and that the President as-
 “ signed, for the omission, the reason just mentioned.”

The boundary line to the westward of the Lake of the Woods still remains unsettled, for the Treaty of Ghent contains no stipulation whatever upon the subject. In the mean time, it appears by a Map published in Philadelphia in 1816, and understood to be sanctioned by the American Government, that they claim even more than the line due *west* as their boundary, and extend their territorial claim across the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.—Starting from the north-western point of the Lake of the Woods, which they lay down in latitude $49^{\circ} 40'$ north, their line extends in that parallel to the south branch of the Red River; then down that branch about 15 miles, to its junction with the Assiniboin River, and along the course of the latter River to its source, which carries them to the latitude of about 52° north. From thence they cross the intervening height of land to the south branch of the Saskatchewan River, and follow the course of that River, and of the Bow River, which is one of its branches, to the source of the latter in the Rocky Mountains. Then returning to the parallel of latitude in which they started from the Lake of the Woods, their assumed boundary extends upon that parallel $49^{\circ} 40'$ north to Queen Charlotte's Sound, and including both shores of the Columbia River, they claim the whole coast of the Pacific, as far as the Bay of St. Francisco, in latitude $37^{\circ} 55'$ north.

Whoever may ultimately remain possessors of the shores

of the Pacific, and the country adjoining the Columbia River, which (let it be remembered) was first explored, and the Trade of which is now possessed by the North-West Company, yet there is little probability that the boundary claimed by the Americans, from the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains, will ever be seriously disputed with them; and the line *due west*, they appear at all events, fully resolved to claim.

It is worthy of observation, that either of these lines will include the greater part of the Territory granted to Lord Selkirk by the Hudson's Bay Company, and that the Settlement at the Forks of the Red River was situated within, or on the immediate confines of the American Territory.

In the Map accompanying this Notice, the American side of the boundary line thus claimed by the United States, is coloured *yellow*; the British side *red*; and the Coast of the Pacific Ocean, being still considered to belong to Great Britain, notwithstanding the American claim, is also coloured *red*; the Depôts and Trading Stations of the North-West Company are marked NW, with a *deep red dot*; and the Territory specified in the Hudson's Bay Company's Grant to the Earl of Selkirk, is coloured *green*.

TREATY OF PARIS, 1783,

ART. II.

AND that all disputes which might arise in future on the subject of the boundaries of the said United States may be prevented, it is hereby agreed and declared, that the following are, and shall be their boundaries, viz. From the north-west angle of Nova Scotia, viz. that angle which is formed by a line drawn due north from the source of St. Croix River to the Highlands, along the said Highlands, which divide those rivers that empty themselves into the River St. Lawrence, from those which fall into the Atlantic Ocean, to the north-westernmost head of Connecticut River, thence down along the middle of that river to the forty-fifth degree of north latitude; from thence, by a line due west, on said latitude, until it strikes the River Iroquois or Cataraquy; thence along the middle of said River into Lake Ontario, through the middle of said Lake until it strikes the communication by water between that Lake and Lake Erie; thence along the middle of the said communication into Lake Erie, through the middle of said Lake, until it arrives at the water communication between that Lake and Lake Huron; thence through the middle of said Lake to the water communication between that Lake and Lake Superior; thence through Lake Superior northward of the Isles Royal and Philapeaux, to the Long Lake; thence through the middle of said Long Lake, and the water communication between it and the Lake of the Woods, to the said Lake of the Woods; thence through the said Lake to the most north-westernmost point thereof, and from thence on a due west course to the River Mississippi, &c. &c.

TREATY OF LONDON, 1794,

ART. IV.

WHEREAS it is uncertain, whether the River Mississippi extends so far to the northward, as to be intersected by a line to be drawn due west from the Lake of the Woods, in the manner mentioned in the Treaty of Peace between His Majesty and the United States; it is agreed, that

measures shall be taken, in concert by His Majesty's Government and the United States, for making a joint Survey of the said River, from one degree of latitude below the fall of St. Anthony, to the principal source or sources of the said River, and also of the parts adjacent thereto; and that if, on the result of such Survey, it should appear that the said River would not be intersected by such a line as is above mentioned, the two Parties will thereupon proceed, by amicable negotiation, to regulate the boundary line in that quarter, as well as all other points to be adjusted between the said Parties, according to justice and mutual convenience, and in conformity to the intent of the said Treaty.

TREATY OF GHENT, 1814,

ART. VI. AND VII.

ARTICLE VI.

WHEREAS by the former Treaty of Peace, that portion of the boundary of the United States, from the point where the 45th degree of north latitude strikes the River Iroquois or Cataraquy, to the Lake Superior, was declared to be "along the middle of said River into Lake Ontario, through the middle of said Lake, until it strikes the communication by water between that Lake and Lake Erie, thence along the middle of said communication into Lake Erie, through the middle of said Lake, until it arrives at the water communication into Lake Huron, thence through the middle of said Lake to the water communication between that Lake and Lake Superior;" and whereas doubts have arisen what was the middle of the said River, Lakes, and water communications, and whether certain Islands lying in the same, were within the Dominions of His Britannic Majesty or of the United States: In order, therefore, finally to decide these doubts, they shall be referred to two Commissioners, to be appointed, sworn, and authorized to act exactly in the manner directed with respect to those mentioned in the next preceding Article, unless otherwise specified in this present Article. The said Commissioners shall meet, in the first instance, at

Albany, in the State of New York, and shall have power to adjourn to such other place or places as they shall think fit. The said Commissioners shall, by a report or declaration, under their hands and seals, designate the boundary through the said River, Lakes, and water communications, and decide to which of the two Contracting Parties the several Islands lying within the said Rivers, Lakes, and water communications, do respectively belong, in conformity with the true intent of the said Treaty of 1783. And both Parties agree to consider such designation and decision as final and conclusive. And in the event of the said two Commissioners differing, or both or either of them refusing, declining, or wilfully omitting to act, such reports, declarations, or statements, shall be made by them, or either of them, and such reference to a friendly Sovereign or State shall be made, in all respects, as in the latter part of the Fourth Article is contained, and in as full a manner as if the same was herein repeated.

ARTICLE VII.

It is further agreed, that the said two last-mentioned Commissioners, after they shall have executed the duties assigned to them in the preceding Article, shall be, and they are hereby authorized, upon their oaths, impartially to fix and determine, according to the true intent of the said Treaty of Peace of 1783, that part of the boundary between the dominions of the two Powers, which extends from the water communication between Lake Huron and Lake Superior, to the most north-western point of the Lake of the Woods; to decide to which of the two Parties the several Islands lying in the Lakes, water communications and rivers forming the said boundary, do respectively belong, in conformity with the true intent of the said Treaty of Peace of 1783; and to cause such parts of the said boundary as require it, to be surveyed and marked. The said Commissioners shall, by a report or declaration, under their hands and seals, designate the boundary aforesaid, state their decision on the points thus referred to them, and particularize the latitude and longitude of the most north-western point of the Lake of the Woods, and of such other parts of the said boundary as they may deem proper. And both Parties agree to consider such designation and decision as final and conclusive. And in the event of the said two Commissioners differ-

ing, or both, or either of them, refusing, declining, or wilfully omitting to act, such reports, declarations, or statements shall be made by them, or either of them, and such reference to a friendly Sovereign or State shall be made in all respects, as in the latter part of the Fourth Article is contained, and in as full a manner as if the same was herein repeated.

Not Transcribed at Archives